BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB INC.

WHIRRAKEE

April 2006

Vol. 27 No. 3

Registered by Australia Post. Publication No. VBH4462

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552
ISSN 0812-423X

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Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The invited speaker at general meetings starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper.
If a workshop is held prior to the meeting, it will be advertised and it usually starts at 7.00pm.
The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Ben Goonan, Richard Goonan, Bill Holsworth, Rob Moors, Rod Orr, Bob Ruddick, Darren White.

Excursions are conducted regularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. In addition to local excursions, campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one active group that meets regularly (the Fauna Study Group) and other groups that meet at irregular intervals.

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.

Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observers Group: This group has field excursions and the occasional lecture evening. Please consult the *Whirrakee* for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5449 3479.
To propose meetings or excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

Front cover photo?...see bottom of page 2.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club

Vol. 27, No. 3, April 2006

Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

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Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's Note
I have been asked by our treasurer to gently remind those members whose subscriptions are overdue that they should pay now (we are half way through the BFNC year already).
The excursion program seems to be getting bigger and better, judging by the report this month. If you haven't been on an excursion, this month's may be an easy start as it is close to home, but to a location where not many people normally go....see page 3 for details (please note he change of date from the calendar supplied in February). In fact the end of April is going to be very interesting with a lot of things happening (see the 'short notices' section as well as the diary).

Front Cover Photographs – Photographer: Beverley Van Praagh

What a great action shot! The photo, taken in October 2005, shows Sir David Attenborough and the support crew during the filming of the series 'Life in the Undergrowth' which went to air earlier this year. From the descriptions of the Giant Gippsland Earthworm (see page 8), the specimen that Sir David is examining here, is a small one!

Short Notices

Tree Planting at Laurel Street Primary School

Members of the club are encouraged to become involved with the school on their tree planting day, 20th April.
Drop in during the morning and support the effort!

Leaves for Garden Mulch

Claret Ash leaves and fruit tree leaves will be bagged and ready to be picked up.
Please contact Margaret Kane on 5442 6418 if interested and to arrange address of pick up and date.

Breakfast in the Red Gum Forest

Environment Victoria in partnership with **Friends of Nyah-Vinifera Forest** invites all Bendigo Field Naturalists Club members to a **Breakfast in the Red Gum Forest** at Nyah on Thursday 20th April.

- **Free Breakfast** cooked by the ABC's **Stefano de Pieri** at 7:30AM to 12:00 noon
- An opportunity to learn about the current **survey of mammals and reptiles** from biologist **Matt Herring**
- Listen to **Dr. Paul Sinclair**, Environment Victoria and Red Gum botanist **Doug Frood**
- Walk to a **forest billabong** with scientific staff and local Field Naturalists.
- An opportunity to contribute to the discussion on the **VEAC** process for **Public Red Gum Forest**.

For details on transportation, accommodation and other enquiries please contact Ian Magee 03 5447 8375

Call for grant applications – FNCV Environment Fund

Grants of between $200 and $1000 are available for the purposes of environmental research, public education about the natural environment or practical projects to enhance biodiversity.

Closing date for applications is Friday 21st April 2006.
Further information:
Anne Bridley or Helen McNally, FNCV administration officer, ph 03 9877 9860.

'Digging the Dirt'

Celebrating 20 years of Landcare

27th April 2006, 6.30pm onwards. BBQ dinner will be provided.
Mandurang Reserve Hall (Corner of Mandurag/Sedwick Road and Nankervis Road.

For more information and registration (by 20th April) contact Ben Kroker, City of greater Bendigo andcare coordinator
Ph 0427853545 or
b.kroker@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Spotlight on Water

27th April 2006, Campbell Theatrette, starting at 7.30pm.

Bushlinks cordially invites you to an evening of shared views. We will be holding a community forum devoted to widening the debate on an environmentally sustainable water supply for our region over the next 50-100 years.

There will be three keynote speakers who will sketch different points of view. There

will also be plenty of time for airing your views. The program is as follows:

- 7.15 p.m. Welcome, Mayor of Bendigo
- 7.30 Phil Dyson, Consultant Hydrogeologist
- 7.50 Gordon Weller, Farmer, Irrigator
- 8.10 Paul Sinclair, Healthy Rivers Campaigner, E.V.
- 8.30 Open forum, chaired by Mayor
- 9.30 Close and supper

Error in Chris Tzaros' Wildlife Book
'Wildlife of the Box-Ironbark Country' Copies are still available for $30.00 from Bill Holsworth.
Please note:
Error correction on pages 184-185.
Most users of the book will have noticed that the numbered sites listed do not match the numbers on the map. This error occurred in the final stages of printing, but a correct map and legend is available on the CSIRO website. Go to
http://www.publish.csiro.au/pid/4856.htm

Bill has made a few black and white copies of the corrected map for those who do not have access to a computer.

Plastic Pots/Tubes needed
Members of the Harcourt Valley Landcare group are germinating local progeny casuarinas and eucalyptus for their revegetation projects. They have been so successful in this that they have run out of pots.
If you have any spares cluttering up your shed, you could consider donating them to this worthy cause.
Please contact Sabine Wilkens (54432797) if you can help.

APRIL EXCURSION
Sewage Farm and Whipstick: BIRDS

NOTE: Change of Date, now on the 22 April Meet at Golden Square 7:45pm $10.00

The Bendigo Sewerage Treatment Plant settlement ponds in Epsom have been an important sanctuary for water birds and waders in the Bendigo district for many years. With other waterways and wetland areas subject to seasonal conditions and severe pressure during recent dry times, the treatment ponds have provided invaluable refuge and habitat. Members of the club have been visiting and recording bird life of the ponds for many years. Access is now limited and we are lucky to be able to continue annual visits to the site.

The Whipstick forest has also been an area of interest for the club over many years, and it is due to the hard work of the club over many years, that the area has been protected and recognized for its ecological value. Like much of the forest surrounding Bendigo that has come under threat from time to time, there would be very little left today without the dedicated work of club members, and this continues today. The Whipstick / Kamarooka area provides a diverse range of habitat forms and associated species, including several rare plants. In addition, the area has one of the highest species diversities of birds recorded.

Transport will be available for the day, leaving Golden Square at 8am. Although I would encourage you to take advantage of the transport provided and book early so I can judge the bus required, please don't hesitate to join us if you would prefer to drive your own vehicle. Alternatively you could meet us at the sewerage farm (Cnr of Wallenjoe Rd and Epsom Eaglehawk Rd) approx 8.20am. Or find us before midday

when we will head to a dam in the Whipstick forest for lunch. Please call 0423418815 for further information and bookings or to find us on the day at any time. Bring lunch and water, sturdy footwear and perhaps a stool, cuppa and nibbles provided!

APRIL GENERAL MEETING
Speaker: Kevin Rule "Interesting and unusual Eucalypts of Northern Victoria"

Author: Rod Orr

Kevin was a teacher before he retired to pursue his passionate interest in Eucalytps. He now spends much of his time identifying and classifying samples of 'new' finds. He also grows many Eucalypts from seed collected during his trips and is interested in whether they breed true. He travels widely in search of new and interesting Eucalypts and so he knows most areas of North and Central Victoria very well indeed.

We thought that this evening could be a sort of combined talk and workshop during which Kevin will take us through the important steps involved in identifying specimens. He has also expressed keen interest in seeing and attempting to identify any of our 'unknown' or 'strange' eucalypts that we want to bring in to his talk in April.

It would make a very interesting evening if as many of our members as possible brought a specimen of their unusual or unknown Eucalypt for Kevin to see and for us all to learn more about.

Plant specimens keep very well for a week or so if they are placed in a plastic bag and kept in the refrigerator. Try to include leaves; buds and fruit if possible and notice how large the tree is; what shape it is; what its bark is like.

Lerderderg River Excursion March 2006

by Richard Goonan

After considering several options for the March excursion, intending to visit part of the Lerderderg Gorge, I decided upon a section of the Lerderderg River slightly west of Blackwood, and just north of the Lerderderg State Park. Due to the terrain further downstream in the gorge section, and intention of the trip - observation, I felt that a more relaxed and accessible option may be rewarding. I would recommend this pleasant 9km circuit along the river environment.

Our climb into the Central Highlands crossed several distinctive regions, and took us past the headwaters of the Campaspe and Coliban rivers, to the upper reaches of the south flowing Lerderderg River. Heading south along the Calder Hwy out of Bendigo, the metamorphic ridge we know as Big Hill introduced the first significant change. The granite derived soils of the Harcourt valley are characterised by large Red Gums (*Euc camaldulensis*) and Yellow Box (*Euc melliodora*) along with the smaller Long Leaf Box (*Euc goniocalyx*). Unfortunately the tide of settlement has seen most of this area cleared of its former vegetation and little remains. Over the last few years you may have noticed the hard work of the local Landcare group along the banks of Barkers Creek in Harcourt. Many large willows have been removed and native species established. Barkers Creek continues southwest to Guildford where it contributes to the Loddon River system.

South of Harcourt, before the Calder heads into the sedimentary region of Taradale, the deeper granite soils support Candle Bark (*Euc rubida*) and Red Stringybark (*Euc macrorhyncha*). Some short sections along the Hwy demonstrate the associated

herb rich ground flora of this area, which provides a display of wildflowers during spring, that is in contrast to the brown, dry grassy appearance as we passed. To the west of the Hwy the metamorphosed sandstone ridge runs parallel, while to the east, the granite of the Sutton Grange area prevails. Just passed Elphinstone, the Hwy crosses the southern extension of the metamorphic sandstones surrounding the granite and mixed species Box and Stringybark forest returns and is similar to that of the northern Fryers Rangers.

Taradale, marks another sharp contrast in the landscape. Located in a valley at the junction of several creeks draining from the Fryers Rangers to the west, the creek is a tributary of the Coliban River. Looking east you can see a narrow valley where the creek has eroded over many thousands of years the surrounding sedimentary soils from around the harder basalt rock that today forms an elevated plateau to the south and east of Taradale. The spectacular old railway bridge seen from the Hwy, spans the valley from each side of the volcanic escarpment, that forms a level plain. Climbing from the valley we were soon crossing an extensive volcanic plateau that in prehistory is associated with basalt flows along the Coliban and Campaspe River valleys. Extending north to Lake Eppalock and Redesdale, and south through Kyneton and Trentham, few indications of the former vegetation remain on the northern sections. The fertile basalt derived soils were cleared and utilised early during settlement. Occasional Candlebark and Tree Violet (*Hymenanthera dentata*) can be seen scattered through the paddocks, or along the steep, rocky slopes of the escarpment, particularly toward the top half where the slope is greatest.

South of Kyneton toward Tylden, Peppermints start to appear on the sedimentary bedrock that has not been covered by volcanic flows. Initially, the Narrow-leaved Peppermint (*Euc. radiata*) and further south the Broad-leaved Peppermint (*Euc.dives*), are associated with Messmate (*Euc. obliqua*). Candlebark is widespread, but particularly dominates the volcanic areas with Manna Gum (*Euc viminalis*) beginning to appear closer to Trentham.

From Trentham, the road winds through the Wombat Forest past Newbury (wettest area of the Wombat) and down to Blackwood on the Lerderderg River. Taking the Simmons Reef Road out of Blackwood, our walk started along the Lerderderg Road about 7km out. We parked at the Otts Track intersection on a dry spur amongst *Euc. dives* with a low understory of *Banksia marginata, Leptospermum continentale,* and *Hakea decurrens* amongst Prickly Moses (*Acacia verticillata)* and Variable Sallow-wattle *(Acacia mucronata var. longifolia), Poa* spp and Dwarf Geebung *(Persoonia chamaepeuce).*
Wandering down Otts track we were soon within the riparian vegetation of the river valley. Surrounded by Rough Tree ferns (*Cyathea australis*), *Pomaderis aspera, Prostanthera lassianthos, Olearia agrophylla, Olearia lirata , Cassinia aculeata, Coprosma quadrifera, Goodenia ovata* and occasional Blanket-leaf (*Befordia arborescens*), *Poa labiliarderii,* and *Clematis aristata,* these species form an understorey with Blackwood (*Ac. melanoxylon*) the mid story below an overstory of Manna gum (*Euc viminalis*) with occasional tall Messmate (*Euc obliqua*). The striking tall white trunks of the Manna Gum still bear few hollows despite being relatively large trees. The signs of hollow formation were beginning to show with some trees producing large dead limbs high in the canopy where water and fungus can start penetrating to rot the core material before removal.

The track meanders along the river bank following an old water race channel, which makes for easy walking, being flat and well formed. Although at first it seemed

quiet, the birdlife of the forest began to appear as we walked along the river. High in the canopy, making their identification difficult, Yellow Faced Honeyeaters, Striated and Yellow Thornbills foraged.

Climbing around and through several Hakea, a male Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoo (bright red eye ring) looked as though it may have been feeding on the fruit, but this was not clear. Sitting in a low branch opposite was perhaps a juvenile, making a continuous rasping eerrk, eerrk, eerrk, possibly bleeting for food.

Grey Fantails were often seen along the valley amongst Blackwood, and we also watched a Rufous Fantail. Both species are migratory, coming south over summer, with the Rufous far less common and restricted to the rangers of Eastern Australia.

Looking around at the trees while having a rest stop, about 2.5km along the track I noticed a shorter smooth barked gum with twisted growth form. The trees were Swamp Gum (Euc ovata), and began to appear just before the track entered a flat swampy area with *Ghania sieberiana* and *Lomandra longifolia* understory, along with stunted Blackwood. Lots of birds where in this area, particularly Striated Pardalotes high up, and Thornbills, Yellow Faced Honeyeater, White-eared Honeyeater, Silvereye, White-throated Tree Creeper and a Golden Whistler throughout the canopy. Wrens and Scrub Wrens were seen amongst the understorey.

At several points where the track winds around broad spurs, more open forest grows on shallow poorer soils. *Exocarpus cuppressiformis*, *Banksia*, *Hakea*, *Leptospermum* and Large-leaf Bush Pea (*Pultenaea daphnoides*) grow amongst Messmate toward the lower slope, and Broad-leaved Peppermint further up.

The walk back contours along the river valley about 50-70m higher on the lower mid slope allowing views across through the riparian zone below and amongst the open forest of Peppermint and Messmate. Sections with several large Messmate in comparison to the majority of smaller trees, were reminders of the changes the forest has undergone through past mining and logging. Dryer country species such as *Davesia ulicifolia, Davesia leptophylla, Brachyloma daphnoides* were seen here demonstrating the rapid change in localised climate associated with slope, aspect, soil and drainage. Parsons Bands (*Eriochilus cucullatus*) were found along the track (flowering) and also Greenhood basal leaves.

Before contouring around the steep spur where the bus was parked, the track passed through a small section of riparian species again. With steep slope, easterly aspect and a sheltered gully, the rapid change in environmental conditions, favouring different species was a distinctive change.

Other species seen along the walk included Trigger plant (*Stylidium graminifolium sp2*), Thin-leaf Wattle (*Acacia aculiatissima*), Rough Coprosma (*Coprosma hirtella*), several ferns including Maidenhair, Wiry Bossia (*Bossia cordigera*), Common Heath (*Epacris impressa), Indigofera australis*, Bootlace Bush (*Pimelea axiflora), Dianella tasmanica*, Honey pots (*Acrotriche serrulata*), Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) Hovea spp., *Grevillea alpina*, Silver Wattle (*Ac dealbata*), Small Dodder spp?, *Brunonia australis*.

Birds: Woodswallow (unidentified), Brown Falcon, Crimson Rosella, Pied Currawong, Kookaburra, Yellow Robin, Owlet Nightjar, Eastern Spinebill, Rufous Whistler, Grey Shrike-thrush.

March General Meeting. Speaker: Neville Rosengren – The Giant Gippsland Earthworm, *Megascolides australis*.

by Sabine Wilkens

Neville started his talk by mentioning all the experts involved in this project, Allan Yen and Beverley Van Praagh in particular. These are invertebrate specialists with Beverley having done her PhD on this earthworm species. However, Neville, who is a geomorphologist, knows a lot about ecology, and, as it turned out, showed a great deal of expertise on the topic too.

The Giant Gippsland Earthworm is an elusive, little-known and little-studied animal. Weighing up to 200g with a length of over 175cm (when relaxed) it is truly a massive invertebrate. In fact one wonders if it is not a leftover of Australia's mega-fauna from many thousands of years ago, when kangaroos, wombats, snakes and lizards were giants too.

In 1980, the distribution of the Giant Gippsland Earthworm was mapped by Brian Smith, then curator of invertebrates at the National Museum of Victoria, and it was attempted to correlate this distribution with geomorphological features like slope, aspect, relations to drainage and type of soil. No single environmental feature was associated with the worm. This makes studying this animal extra difficult, because in the field, the worm has no surface expression, it leads a cryptic lifestyle and there are no visible burrows, mounds, or piles of casts that give away its presence.
Today it is mainly found on private land in relatively steep, hilly country bordered by Warragul, Wonthaggi, Korrumburra and the Strzelecki Ranges. This land was cleared early during white settlement and has had a 150 year history of agriculture with cropping and dairying being prominent at present.

Several environmental factors point to the occurrence of the worm in the geographical range described above, e.g. the presence of yabby holes, often a south-east facing slope (but never on top of hills), somewhat terraced slopes near drainage lines and creeks. However, the only real way of knowing where it is, is to dig it up. If a foot is stamped on the ground, the vibrations will travel and the worm will usually move as a result. The resultant 'squelch' can be heard by an experienced listener. David Attenborough in his short segment on this animal (first program of the series 'Life in the Undergrowth'), gave the impression the squelch is very loud, but Neville told us that in the program this noise was highly exaggerated.

The question as to the worm's 'original' habitat is an interesting one. This part of Gippsland was cleared 150 years ago and worms have been reported there from the beginning of white settlement. Did they live in the forest before the land was cleared? Were they densities in the forest similar or higher to what they are today or did they begin to thrive once they found themselves in cleared land?
How did they manage in a forest where roots take up most of the soil space? Very few worms today are found in the forest.

There are no records from before white settlement and no known use by aboriginal people for food or other purposes.

The project Neville was involved with, was funded by Vic Roads who need to build a road through the earthworm territory. Upon investigation, it turned out that the proposed and preferred site of relocation of the road was one of the densest known earthworm territories ever recorded (4-17 worms per m^3 of soil).

The scientists involved in this work had to consider a relocation of the animals – but where to relocate them? To a place where there are others (as this must be a good

site), or to a place where there is none, to ensure they can make a living without competition? In the latter scenario, how do we know this land will be suitable? In addition, future land planning had to be taken into consideration, because wherever they were going to be relocated, should have to remain, at least in the medium term, a permanent home.

Many sites were looked at on public land but none was suitable. In the end, VicRoads purchased some land and it was made earthworm friendly by modifying it to look like typical slopey, terraced earthworm country.

Another problem that had to be solved was how to relocate them in the fist place?
The earthworms had to be dug out of their original holes (as one can imagine, this process alone resulted in many casualties), then transported to a holding site or the relocation site, and then placed a shallow channel dug into the ground and covered with soil. As their requirements for living space were poorly understood, this involved a lot of trial and error.

What does the Gant Gippsland Earthworm eat?
How does it move in its burrow, how far does it travel in a day, in a week, in a lifetime?
Ho does it mate and how does it find a mate?
Where and how do the offspring move away?
How does the species occupy new territory?

There is, as yet, no answer to these questions. VicRoads, although doing a terrible thing by putting a road through dense Gippsland Earthworm territory, have been very generous in supporting this project and given everybody a chance to learn something about this mysterious mega-invertebrate.

As it turned out, much was learned and some excellent decisions were made and many worms were successfully relocated. Monitoring of earthworms will continue and will be made easier by new technology.

There were many, many questions after the talk. Hopefully another few doctoral theses will be undertaken to answer some of these.

News from Cairns

While we here in Bendigo are enjoying the absolutely beautiful and glorious autumn weather (although very dry), here is a note from one of our members, Darren Green, from Cairns. Many of you will know that Darren is currently doing his Honours in Nature Tourism up there.

Just a quick note to let you know we are all alright here in Cairns after Cyclone Larry's quick visit. We are on the northern side of Cairns and didn't really get much damage. We also had plenty of warning so were able to bring in all the pot plants, out side furniture etc and tape up the windows.

We started to get gusty winds at about 12:00 (midnight) Monday morning, these picked up by 5:00am, when we lost our power, and the winds dropped right off about 9:30am. We had a few small broken branches and a heap of small debris, the neighbour had two palm trees blow over.(The power came back on here at 9:00am Wednesday morning), we didn't loose phone or water. We were really lucky even compared to the southern suburbs of Cairns, let alone further south.

Easter 2006

Seventy-five Welcome Swallows

Sit side by side on an overhead wire,

Silhouetted against the silvery

Early morning sky.

Startled by my approach,

They shoot into the sky,

Black arrowheads,

Then, uncertain, they flutter like paper,

Wheel, return, and settle.

Some early day soon

These swallows and more will fly

Tropicwards together, determined,

Silent.

It must be Easter again.

Tom Burton

Author's note: I always associate the northwards migration of Welcome Swallows from the area with Easter, since I saw what I took to be a migrating flock early one Good Friday morning many years ago. This immense flock was very high and flying very directly northwards, and I could hear no sound. Of course, whereas a percentage of the population does depart in autumn, many Welcome Swallows over-winter in the district.

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meetings

Wednesday, April 12 7.30pm
Kevin Rule will speak about "Interesting and unusual Eucalypts of Northern Victoria". See page 4 for details.

Sneak preview of June Speaker: It will be Mark Antos from Birds Australia (Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union) and he'll talk about 'Ecology and conservation of ground-foraging birds in Northern Victoria'.
For details of speakers for the next few months, see next *Whirrakee*.

Excursions

We have an exciting excursion program for 2006. The next trip is to the Bendigo Sewage Farm and the Whipstick, mainly to observe birds (see page 3 for details).
NOTE: Change of Date, now on the **22 April**
Meet at Golden Square 7:45pm
$10.00 for the bus.
Contact: Richard Goonan 0423418815

The February edition of *Whirrakee* (page 3) has the entire 2006 excursion program.

Fauna Group

This group meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Wednesday, April 26 7.30pm
Topic: Ants

Wednesday, May 24 7.30pm
Topic: Cane Toads

Wednesday, June 28 7.30pm
Common (Indian) Myna

Fauna Excursions

Every Friday morning starting at around 9 to 9:30, the Fauna Group inspects nest boxes in the Spring Gully area. The excursions are led by Maurie Lewis, 16 Vains St. Golden Square. Phone 0407 427 179 or 5442 1813. Phone Maurie to confirm exact departure times and location. If you don't phone but go directly to Maurie's house and find nobody at the house between 9 and 9:30 then the excursion is not on.

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.

W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals. It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Sustainability and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need.
Phone: 0419 356433.

Bendigo Field Naturalists on the web

Any comments about the site are most welcome.
http://communitysites.impulse.net.au/bendigofieldnaturalists/fnats.html

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New Edition of Box Ironbark CD

Just to let you know that the new edition of 'Plants and Animals of the Box-Ironbark Area of Central Victoria' is available at the usual price of $ 50.-

...and **Wildlife of the Box Ironbark Country by Chris Tzaros** is also still available at $ 30.-. See note on page 3 regarding a printing mistake.

Please contact Bill Holsworth if you are interested in purchasing one of these.